

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 IO-10 OMB-01 SAB-01

SAM-01 /075 W

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O R 120746Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7493

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONGEN JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 4449

BONN FOR AMBASSADOR TOON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINT IS US EG

SUBJECT: POSITIONS OF PERES AND RAFI FACTION ON INTERIM AGREEMENT

1. MORDECHAI BEN-PORAT, MEMBER OF RAFI FACTION OF LABOR PARTY AND DEPUTY SPEAKER OF KNESSET, TOLD US JULY 11 THAT AT RECENT MEETING OF ALL EIGHT RAFI KNESSET MEMBERS, SEVEN (INCLUDING DEFMIN PERES) COMMITTED THEMSELVES TO OPPOSING WITHIN KNESSET ANY INTERIM AGREEMENT WITH EGYPT WHICH DID NOT INCLUDE EGYPTIAN DECLARATION OF NON-BELLIGERENCY. LONE HOLDOUT WAS YITZHAK NAVON.

2. BEN-PORAT SAID THAT FACTION HAD AGREED TO MEET AGAIN AFTER RETURN OF PM RABIN FROM BONN, TO ASSESS
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ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS AND IN PARTICULAR TO HEAR PERES

PRESENT HIS POSITION. HE SAID IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT MINDS OF SOME FACTION MEMBERS MIGHT BE CHANGED BY NEW ELEMENTS AND/OR BY ARGUMENTATION BASED ON IMPORTANCE OF US-ISRAELI RELATIONSHIP. HE SINGLED OUT AS OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO SOME FACTION MEMBERS, MANNING OF IDF ELECTRONIC SURVEILLANCE INSTALLATIONS BY ISRAELIS RATHER THAN BY THIRD PARTY.

3. BEN-PORAT STRESSED DIFICULTY OF CHOICES FACING PERES ON ASSUMPTION THAT NON-BELLIGERENCY DECLARATION IS UNATTAINABLE. HE DESCRIBED PERES AS "AGONIZING" BETWEEN CONVICTION HE SHARES WITH FACTION COLLEAGUES THAT ISRAEL WOULD BE FOOLISH TO RELINQUISH PASSES IN ABSENCE OF NON-BELLIGERENCY, AND HIS RESPONSIBILITY AS DEFENSE MINISTER FOR ACHIEVING THE POSSIBLE. MOREOVER, SHOULD PERES SUPPORT AGREEMENT WHICH MAJORITY OF RAFI APPOSES, HIS INFLUENCE WITHIN FACTION COULD WELL BE ADVERSELY AFFECTED. BEN-PORAT EMPHASIZED THAT PERES' MIND IS BY NO MEANS MADE UP, AND CALLED OUR ATTENTION TO WHAT HE DESCRIBED AS HARDENING OF DEFMIN'S POSITION IN SPEECH JULY 10 (REFTEL). BEN-PORAT ADMITTED, HOWEVER, THAT CONSEQUENCES OF PERES OPPOSING AN AGREEMENT THAT RABIN MIGHT WISH TO CONCLUDE WERE SUFFICIENTLY GRAVE THAT PERES MIGHT IN THAT CASE, CHOOSE TO SPEAK AGAINST AGREEMENT WITHIN CABINET BUT UPHOLD PARTY UNITY IN KNESSET VOTE. VELIOTES

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LEGISLATORS, PERSONAL OPINION, PEACE TALKS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 JUL 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TELAV04449
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750241-0542
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750760/aaaacbh.y.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <17 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSITIONS OF PERES AND RAFI FACTION ON INTERIM AGREEMENT
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IS, US, (BEN-PORAT, MORDECHAI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006